TEMPORARY COVID-19 RELATED POLICY - FOR DISCUSSION

6000.1T

INSTRUCTION

HOME SCHOOLING POLICY

The Colchester Board of Education (the "Board") considers that the most appropriate educational setting for the majority of students is within a formal school structure.

Rights and Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians:

Nonetheless, the Board acknowledges the right of parents and/or legal guardians to instruct their children at home as an alternative to public schooling. The Board recognizes state law and Connecticut State Board of Education policy and guidance relating to home instruction. Accordingly, school-age children who are Colchester residents can be excused from the statutory requirement to attend school if the child's parent or guardian notifies the school district that the child is receiving home instruction. Parents or guardians must file a Notice of Intent form (Appendix A) annually with the Superintendent of Schools acknowledging that the parent or guardian is taking full responsibility for the education of their child in accordance with CT State Department of Education policy and guidelines. Upon receipt of such notification, the Superintendent of Schools will send the parent an acknowledgment in writing of receipt of the form.

Dual Enrollment Requests:

Due to practical difficulties and concerns regarding equitable treatment of students, the Board does not operate a hybrid home instruction/formal school program. As such, the Colchester Public Schools shall not provide any educational services, including special education or related services, to a child who is not enrolled in the Colchester Public Schools except for those services required by law. Participation in Colchester Public School activities and programs including but not limited to, athletic teams, extracurricular clubs and programs, is restricted to students enrolled in the Colchester Public Schools. These programs and activities are not open to non-students.

Placement of Home School Students Enrolling in Colchester Public Schools:

The school principal, in consultation with the members of the school's instructional team, will make the decision about the students' grade and/or course level placement based on the student's performance on district assessments and/or universal screening tools. The principal will also review and consider any current standardized student assessment results provided by

the parent/guardian. The final decision for grade and/or course level placement will be made by the school principal.

Award of High School Credit for Home Instruction:

1. Course credit: Normally, the Board will not grant Bacon Academy course credit for courses taken in home instruction. The Superintendent is authorized to grant exceptions to this general rule if <u>all</u> of the circumstances identified below are met. The burden of proof will be on the part of the parent/guardian.
    a. such exception is recommended by the Bacon Academy Principal, Director of Guidance and the District's Director of Teaching and Learning; and
    b. the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements; and
    c. one of the following conditions is met:
        i. the student has successfully completed online coursework from an accredited institution in accordance with applicable Board policy, or
        ii. the student has successfully completed the coursework provided through a home instruction program that is accredited by one of the following regional accrediting agencies: New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or
        iii. the student has achieved a passing grade on a subject areas proficiency examination identified and approved by the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Education.

    Credits will only be awarded to students enrolled at Bacon Academy.

Award of Diploma:

The Board will not award high school diplomas to students who are not enrolled students at Bacon Academy.

<u>Temporary Pandemic Accommodations</u>

<u>The Board recognizes the disruption of the normal operation of school and the delivery of instruction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board also recognizes that the disruption may have influenced some families to determine it is in their student's best educational interest to be homeschooled rather than attend Colchester Public Schools, albeit even if for a temporary period of time. To support all school-aged children who reside in Colchester the Board will make available the following educational resources between the approval of this policy and June 30, 2021 to an individual student in grades K-12. A family shall make a written</u>

request for access to the resources, and agrees to abide by all District terms of use of resources. Access to, and associated data and profiles of, digital resources will end on June 30, 2021 if a student does not re-enroll in Colchester Public Schools.

- **DreamBox (grades K-2)**
- **Freckle Math (grade 3-5)**
- **Lexia (grades K-2)**
- **StemScopes (grades K-12)**

No other resources, including devices, will be made available to home school students. The Board reserves the right to suspend all access at any time prior to June 30, 2021.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-184 Duties of Parents
10-184a Special Education programs not required for children in home or private schools
10-220 Duties of Boards of Education

ADOPTED: January 12, 2021

COLCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Colchester, Connecticut